**RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1957**

**House of Assembly, 29 August 1957, page 522**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Irrigation)—**I move—

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

This Bill has been asked for by the Renmark Irrigation Trust. Its object is to confer on the trust power to acquire land compulsorily for the purpose of carrying out any works which the trust is authorized to carry out under its Act. The need for a power of compulsory acquisition was clearly shown during the recent floods when, for the protection of large areas of the irrigation settlement, the trust found it necessary to construct banks on private properties. Although it ultimately succeeded in constructing these banks, some difficulties with land owners arose. It became clear to the trust that if a land owner refused his consent, it might not have been possible for it to construct works which were essential for the protection of the settlement as a whole.

In the long run, all authorities, whether government or local, which are charged with the duty of constructing public works, find it necessary to have a power of compulsory acquisition for the purpose of obtaining the land on which the works are to be built. This, of course, applies to district and municipal councils, and also to the Minister of Irrigation as regards the settlements under his control. However, there is no provision at present in the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act for this purpose, and, pursuant to a promise made by the Government to the trust, this Bill is now submitted for the approval of honourable members. The Bill confers a general power for the trust to acquire land for authorized works. It also empowers the Governor to grant to the trust the fee simple of any Crown lands when the trust has acquired the interest of any purchaser or lessee of such lands.

Mr. BYWATERS secured the adjournment of the debate.

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Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 29. Page 522.)

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray)—I support the Bill. As a Select Committee will be appointed to examine the Bill, anyone desiring to give evidence on this matter may do so before that committee. I believe the Bill is necessary so that certain powers may be vested in the Renmark Irrigation Trust. I have recently inquired in the Renmark district and been told that the provisions of the Bill are desirable; consequently, I do not oppose it.

Mr. KING (Chaffey)—I, too, support the Bill, the need for which arises from conditions consequent on last year’s disastrous River Murray floods. Flood banks had to be placed in certain positions in order to keep the water out and in re-siting the banks it was necessary that some be placed so as to do the greatest possible good in saving the settlement in the event of future floods. So far as I can see from a perusal of the original Act, the powers conferred on the trust by this Bill are restricted to the area in which the trust now operates and do not include powers for any other purposes than those envisaged when the original legislation was framed.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable C. S. Hincks and Messrs. Frank Walsh, Bywaters, Hambour, and King; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records and to report on Thursday, October 3.